



meeting	EMAS SELECT COMMITTEE
date	10 September 2007
	agenda item number

Joint report of the Chair of the EMAS Select Committee and the Head of Scrutiny

Commissioning and Performance Management – Role of SHA

Purpose of report

1. To provide the EMAS Select Committee with the opportunity to develop an understanding of the way that the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) is performance managed and the objectives that the Trust is set.

Background

2. The Select Committee considered the historic performance of the old EMAS Trust at the meeting on 14 May 2007. The Select Committee took evidence from the Healthcare Commission and EMAS and reference was made to the roles of the Strategic Health Authority (SHA) and the Lead Commissioners.
3. The Select Committee was made aware of the work of both the Strategic Health Authority and the Lead Commissioners in performance managing EMAS. Members agreed that further information on the role of the SHA and Lead Commissioners would be required.
4. The lead commissioner for EMAS is Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust (PCT). David Sharp, Director of Commissioning & Informatics and Kate Brown, Assistant Director Planning attended the meeting of the Select Committee on 16 July 2007. Ian Ellis of Nottinghamshire County Teaching Primary Care Trust also attended the meeting.

Issues

5. This scrutiny review seeks to deliver an evidence based assessment of the East Midlands Ambulance Service's performance and services in rural areas and also to provide evidence based suggestions and recommendations to help improve this performance. The Select Committee identified a need to understand the overall picture of performance management for EMAS as part of this objective and also to understand the role of health organisations in relation to EMAS.

6. At the meeting on 16 July 2007 Members agreed that this should involve formally requesting the attendance of the Strategic Health Authority at the next meeting of the Select Committee. The Strategic Health Authority for Nottinghamshire is NHS East Midlands. Representatives of NHS East Midlands have been formally requested to attend the meeting in accordance with the statutory duty for health authorities to attend Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
7. Strategic Health Authorities have recently been reconfigured, with the responsibilities of SHAs and PCTs being altered. NHS East Midlands have been invited to assist the Select Committee by explaining the new role of the SHA. The Select Committee may wish to specifically focus on the role of the SHA in relation to Ambulance Trusts.
8. In addition Members have previously expressed an interest in understanding any role that the SHA might have in the performance management of EMAS and any involvement in the setting of targets and local classifications.

Recommendations

9. It is recommended that

the EMAS Select Committee consider and analyse the evidence provided and identify any additional information required.

Councillor Chris Winterton
Chair of the EMAS Select Committee

Lynn Senior
Head of Scrutiny

Background Papers

Correspondence from the Chair of the EMAS Select Committee and the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee to NHS East Midlands – July 2007.